

Al Soucy

Al Soucy is an American musician, singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and software configuration manager. Active from the early 1970s through the present, he has performed in more than a dozen bands, released over **24 solo albums**, and written more than **327 original songs**. Soucy is known for his melodic rock and folk-influenced songwriting, his long tenure in the New England music scene, and his parallel career in software engineering and configuration management.

Early Life and Musical Beginnings

Soucy began entertaining at a young age, singing in his neighborhood and performing Beatles songs using tennis rackets and brooms before receiving his first electric guitar at age 13. He was strongly influenced by Beatlemania, which shaped his early musical direction.

He initially learned guitar, then drums, and eventually settled on bass guitar—a practical choice at the time, as “no one wanted to play bass.” This decision proved pivotal, leading to his involvement in numerous bands throughout his early career.

Early Bands

Powerhouse

Soucy’s first band, **Powerhouse**, included Wayne Hewitt, Tim Soucy, and Joe Wallace. The group practiced primarily in basements and performed early originals such as *Pleasant View Avenue*.

Midnight Mist

He later joined **Midnight Mist**, featuring Tim Soucy, Dave Tassie, and Shannon Fickett. The band auditioned for WBZ-TV’s *Community Auditions*, performing “If” by Bread. Although they did not win, the experience marked Soucy’s first televised performance.

Ambush

In high school, Soucy performed with **Ambush**, an original rock band with Tim Soucy, Dave Thorp, Jeff Longwell, and Troy MacPherson. The group recorded at North Country Sounds and rehearsed in “Moe’s Garage,” where they built a stage and lighting setup for neighborhood concerts. Soucy handled much of the lead singing and songwriting.

Professional Breakthrough: The Blair Hunter Band

Soucy's first major professional opportunity came when he joined **The Blair Hunter Band**, a top-40 touring group managed by Bill Macek of Clockwork Entertainment.

His first performance at the Ax Handle in Dover, New Hampshire, was challenging—he forgot parts of the set and performed with his back to the audience—but he quickly recovered and became a full member of the touring lineup.

Soucy later recalled:

“When I received the call from Bill Macek that I was hired for The Blair Hunter Band, I was thrilled.”

The band toured extensively and opened for acts such as **Jon Butcher Axis** at the Frolics in Salisbury Beach.

Boston Music Scene (1980s)

The Steps

After leaving the Blair Hunter Band, Soucy joined **The Steps**, a melodic rock group with a Tom Petty influence. They performed at major Boston venues including The Rat, The Channel, The Paradise, The Metro, and Bunratty's. Their song “**White Lies**” received airplay on WBCN and WGIR and appeared on *Boston Rock & Roll Anthology Vol. 3*.

The Switch

Soucy later fronted **The Switch**, a high-energy power trio. A 1984 *Muse* review praised the band as “faster than Def Leppard, stronger than Quiet Riot,” and highlighted Soucy's vocals on songs such as “Such a Fool” and “Last Stand.”

Other Projects

Soucy also performed with or contributed to:

- **Witch Hunter** – heavy rock trio
- **IC5** – punk rock band that played The Rat
- **The Keys** – melodic trio; Soucy later re-recorded “On Your Side” for his solo work
- **The Brotherhood** – Americana-leaning group known for originals like “Love and Money”

- **The Crayons** – top-40 and original rock band with his brothers
- **The Branch Brothers** – top-40 group active throughout New England

He also worked as a session bassist at Blue Jay Recording, Cedar House Recording, Sound Design, and North Country Sounds.

Solo Career

Soucy began releasing solo albums in the early 2000s, starting with *Pennywise and Pound Foolish* (2003). His solo work is characterized by introspective lyrics, acoustic arrangements, and influences from The Beatles, Don Henley, America, and James Taylor.

Notable albums include:

- **Pennywise and Pound Foolish** (2003)
- **Sit With Me** (2005)
- **Temporarily Out of Order** (2006)
- **View from the Top** (2008)
- **Brand New Day** (2014)
- **Some Summer Day** (2020)
- **LUNA** (2023)
- **The Road to Willoughby** (2024)
- **Behind The Pane** (2025)
- **Surreal** (2026)

By 2027, Soucy had released **24 albums** and more than **327 original songs**, all independently produced under his label, Stapler Records.

Musical Style and Influences

Soucy's music blends elements of:

- melodic rock
- folk-rock
- Americana
- singer-songwriter traditions

His work is noted for melodic clarity, emotional honesty, and narrative-driven lyrics.

Stage Presence

Soucy is known for his charismatic stage presence, often interacting with audiences and delivering expressive vocal performances. His work with The Switch and The Steps was particularly praised for its energy and professionalism.

Education

Soucy earned a **degree in Business Administration and Marketing** from **Newbury College** in Boston, Massachusetts. He also completed **16 professional certifications in computer science**, supporting his later career in software configuration management. The document notes that he “has a degree in Business Administration and Marketing and 16 certifications in computer science,” reflecting a blend of business and technical training that informed both his technology career and his independent music production.

Technical and Professional Career

Alongside his music career, Soucy has worked for more than **29 years** as a **Software Configuration Manager** for the State of New Hampshire’s Department of Information Technology.

His responsibilities have included:

- managing source code for more than 1,500 applications
- overseeing the state’s migration from Harvest to GitHub
- developing SDLC templates and DevOps standards
- safeguarding critical software assets

He previously held a top-secret clearance and worked on major U.S. Department of Defense programs, including the F-15, F-18, Abrams Tank, Apache AH-64, and Challenger O-rings. He also supported the Joint Program

Office at Hanscom AFB and worked with MITRE and RCA Aerospace and Defense.

Soucy was nominated for a state employee award recognizing his “exceptional leadership,” “technical expertise,” and “unwavering commitment to quality.”

Legacy

Soucy is regarded as one of New England’s most prolific independent musicians. His catalog—created without major-label support—reflects decades of continuous creativity, technical skill, and artistic independence.